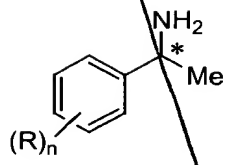
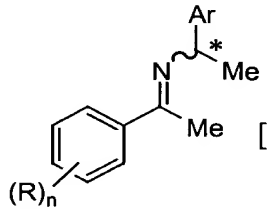


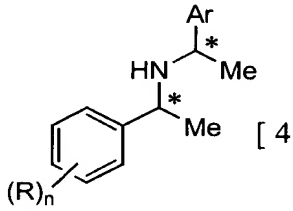
[5]

wherein, R represents a fluorine atom or trifluoromethyl group, n represents 1 to 5, and it takes an arbitrary substitution position, except for the ortho position when R is a fluorine atom and n is 1, and the asterisk represents a chiral carbon, by asymmetrically reducing an optically active imine represented by the general formula 3:



[3]

wherein, R represents a fluorine atom or trifluoromethyl group, n represents 1 to 5 and it takes an arbitary substitution position, except for the ortho position when R is a fluorine atom and n is 1, Ar represents a phenyl group or 1- or 2-naphthyl group, and the asterisk represents a chiral carbon, using a hydride reducing agent, converting to an optically active secondary amine represented by the general formula 4:



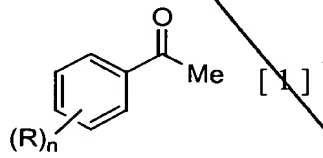
[4]

wherein, R represents a fluorine atom or trifluoromethyl group, n represents 1 to 5 and it takes an arbitrary substitution position, except for the ortho position

C1

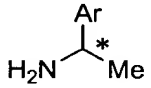
when R is a fluorine atom and n is 1, Ar represents a phenyl group or 1- or 2-naphthyl group, and the asterisks represent chiral carbons, and subjecting the secondary amine, its salt of an inorganic acid or its salt of an organic acid to hydrogenolysis.

5. (Amended) The production process according to claim 1, wherein the optically active imine represented by the general formula 3 is an optically active imine obtained by dehydration and condensation under acidic conditions of a fluoro- or trifluoromethyl-substituted phenylmethyl ketone represented by the general formula 1:



[1]

wherein, R represents a fluorine atom or trifluoromethyl group, n represents 1 to 5, and it takes an arbitrary substitution position, except for the ortho position when R is a fluorine atom and n is 1, and an optically active primary amine represented by the general formula 2:



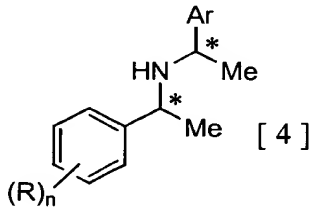
[2]

wherein, Ar represents a phenyl group or 1- or 2-naphthyl group, and the asterisk represents a chiral carbon.

6. (Amended) The production process according to claim 1, wherein stereochemistry of the compound represented by the general formula 3, 4 or 5 is R form or S form.

7. (Amended) The production process according to claim 5, wherein stereochemistry of the compound represented by the general formula 2 is R form or S form.

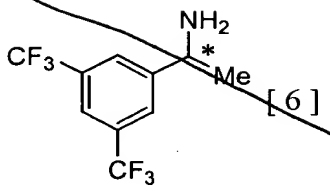
8. (Amended) A purification process, characterized in that an optically active secondary amine represented by the general formula 4:



[4]

wherein, R represents a fluorine atom or trifluoromethyl group, n represents 1 to 5 and it takes an arbitrary substitution position, except for the ortho position when R is a fluorine atom and n is 1, Ar represents a phenyl group or 1- or 2-naphthyl group, and the asterisks represent chiral carbons is converted to a salt of an inorganic acid or organic acid, followed by purification by recrystallization.

10. (Amended) A purification process, characterized in that an optically active 1-(3,5-bis-trifluoromethylphenyl)ethylamine represented by the formula 6:



[6]

wherein, the asterisk represents a chiral carbon, is converted to a salt of an inorganic acid or organic acid, followed by purification by recrystallization.

12. (Amended) The purification process according to claim 8, wherein stereochemistry of the compound represented by the general formula 4 is R form or S form.

13. (Amended) The purification process according to claim 10, wherein stereochemistry of the compound represented by the formula 6 is R form or S form.

Please add new claims 25-28.

25. (New) The production process according to claim 4, wherein hydrogenolysis is carried out while heating at 55°C or higher.

26. (New) The production process according to claim 1, wherein Ar of the general formulas 3 and 4 represents a phenyl group or 2-naphtyl group.